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ABSTRACT

This booklet provides a chronology of public education in Alabama from 1799 to 1979. Objectives are to provide an abbreviated educational history to interested Alabamans and citizens of other states and to inspire researchers to investigate local school systems and other educational topics throughout Alabama. The document is presented in three major sections. Section I, "In the Beginning, 1799-1900," explains how and when early Alabama schools were established, introduces important early educators, describes early attempts to organize a state association of teachers, and traces the establishment of separate educational institutions for blacks and whites. Section II, "Schools of Yesterday, 1901-1942," focuses on expansion of public education, setting of standards for teachers' certificates, and the beginning of educational legislation affecting teachers' welfare, local school taxes, and compulsory attendance. The final section, "Schools of Today, 1943-1979," traces recent developments including expansion of higher education and professional schools (particularly schools of medicine and dentistry), authorization of vocational high schools, appropriation of funds for handicapped students, integration of state supported schools under federal court direction, and increase of programs for functionally illiterate adults. The chronology is illustrated with line drawings, photographs, and maps. (DB)

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ALABAMA EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

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Wayne Teague
State Superintendent of Education

Alabama State Department of Education
Research and Information Services Division
Montgomery, Alabama

Bulletin 1979, No. 16

AUG 7 1980

A Brief Chronology of Public Education in Alabama

It is the official policy of the Alabama State Department of Education, including postsecondary institutions under the control of the State Board of Education, that no person in Alabama shall, on the grounds of race, color, handicap, sex, religion, creed, national origin, or age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program, activity, or employment.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword 1

In The Beginning--1799-1900 2

Schools of Yesterday--1901-1942 7

Schools of Today--1943-1979 9

Index 17

FOREWORD

History has been defined by Hendrik Van Loon as the record of man in quest of his daily bread and butter.

"Throughout history," observed former Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie, "it has been the inaction of those who could have acted, the indifference of those who should have known better, the silence of the voice of justice when it mattered most, that has made it possible for evil to triumph."

John Dewey once suggested that every great advance in civilization has issued from a "new audacity of imagination."

The editors searched the dusty archives of our state diligently in their attempt to provide an instant replay of the highlights of education.

They may have missed some great man or woman who made significant contributions to the progress of our state and nation, but not because they failed to make an earnest search.

Perhaps this publication will inspire others to dig deeper into the history of education in Alabama.

Without the assistance of numerous educators, *Alabama Education Highlights* could not have been compiled. The editors would like to thank: Staff members of the State Department of Education and other friends for providing items to include, and for editing assistance; Dr. James A. Pittman, Jr., M.D., executive dean, for information about The University of Alabama School of Medicine; Ms. Carolyn Hall, of Alabama Public Television, for much of the special art work; Dr. Norman Walton, head of the History Department, Alabama State University; ASU's chief archivist, Mrs. Marcia Miller; staff members of the Alabama Education Study Commission, and of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

We are indebted to many persons for photographs: Superintendent Hilton J. Ishee, Sumter County Schools; Luther G. Mitchell, Norman Loper, Harry W. Clements, Jr., Raymond Jones and Ms. June Smith, of the State Department of Education; Dr. William Parker, superintendent, Lawrence County Schools; Ms. Gloria G. Reese, librarian, and Ms. Mary George Jester, of Georgia Washington Jr. High School; Archives Department, Tuskegee Institute; Board of School Commissioners of Mobile County; State Department of Archives and History; the Alabama Historical Commission; George A. Harris, assistant superintendent for buildings, grounds, and transportation, Montgomery County Board of Education; and Edward Lansford, assistant superintendent, Shelby County Board of Education.

Lynne Brannen and Mrs. Jo Nall Harrell provided the primary research, writing and editing for this publication. Ms. June Smith, illustrator with the State Department of Education, is the expert who designed our cover and made the publication "beautiful."

Mitchell shoots cover pictures.

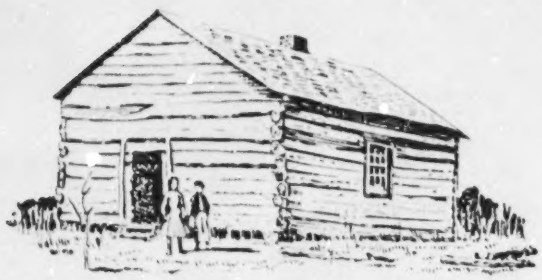
Cover Note:

Transportation has been a key to education in Alabama from the earliest days, and particularly since 1954, when the U. S. Supreme Court struck down the "separate but equal" doctrine in school administration.

The photographs were made at the transportation center of the Montgomery County Board of Education while the system's fleet of school buses was parked during the summer of 1979. Only the Jefferson and Mobile county school systems operate more buses for school transportation. (Photos by Luther G. Mitchell)

Schools were primitive and teachers didn't spare the rod to keep their pupils orderly.

IN THE BEGINNING--1799-1900



Early Schoolhouse

The first school for children of American settlers was established in **1799** at the **Boat Yard** settlement on Lake Tensaw, north of **Mobile**. The schoolhouse was a primitive log cabin in which pupils sat on benches made of puncheon (split logs). They were taught reading, writing, and arithmetic by the "blab" (word-of-mouth) method by **John Pierce**, a settler from Connecticut, who realized a tidy profit for his work.

1819 When Alabama became a state, **Gov. William Wyatt Bibb** stressed the need for education. The Constitutional Convention in July 1819 adopted this resolution: "Schools and the means of education shall forever be encouraged in this state..." and the state accepted 1,000,000 acres of sixteenth section land from the federal government and pledged the proceeds therefrom for education in perpetuity.

Sequoyah

To **Sequoyah** (George Guess or Gist), 1760-1843, a half-breed Cherokee native of **DeKalb County**, goes credit for making the Cherokees into a literate people. Using letters and figures from an old speller, without relation to their meaning in English, and inventing other symbols, he built up a syllabary of 85 characters capable of expressing all the sounds in the Cherokee language. In **1821** the tribal leaders adopted Sequoyah's alphabet and within a few months both the eastern and western bands of the tribe were learning to read. They printed the Bible, hymns, and in 1828 a newspaper named *Cherokee Phoenix*, in Cherokee and English. The Cherokees were the only Indians with a known written language. In commemoration of Sequoyah's invention, the giant Sequoyah (Sequoia) trees of California were named in his honor.[1]

Since higher education was stressed in the 1889 State Constitution, **The University of Alabama** was opened in **1831**, with 35 students enrolled.

Barton Academy

Barton Academy, Mobile, the first public school in Alabama, was financed with money raised by public lottery. The school, built in 1835-36 for use of private and parochial schools, was not used exclusively for public education until 1852. Some 400 pupils came to school opening day in November 1852.

According to the census of **1840**, Alabama had two colleges with 152 students; 114 private academies with 5,018 pupils; and 639 private primary schools with 16,243, a total of 21,413 pupils, including 3,212 "at public charge."

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[1] *Tennessee*, The Viking Press, New York, 1939, p. 40.

The federal census of **1850** shows that Alabama had five colleges, with 55 teachers and 567 students. There were 166 academies and other private schools with 380 teachers and 8,290 pupils. There were 1,152 public schools with 1,195 teachers.

Alabama's first medical school, known as **Graefenberg Medical Institute**, was founded in **1852** at **Dadeville**. It operated nine years, closing its doors with the outbreak of the War Between the States.

1854 Alexander B. Meek, a judge, editor, and state representative from **Mobile**, submitted to the Legislature a bill providing for establishment and maintenance of public schools for the entire state, modeled after the school system of Mobile. After it was enacted into law, he became known as the father of public education in Alabama.

William F. Perry, Talladega, was seated as the first elected state superintendent of education in **1854**.

A. B. Meek

W. F. Perry

In February **1856, Auburn University** was chartered as the **East Alabama Male College**, a denominational institution. In 1872, from funds derived from the Morrill Act, it was refounded as **Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College**——Alabama's first land-grant college. In keeping with its expanding role in collegiate education, the name was changed to **Alabama Polytechnic Institute** in 1899 and to **Auburn University** in 1960.

Sporadic attempts were made to organize a state association of teachers. The first relatively permanent state organization (lasting for five years) was the **Alabama Educational Association**, organized in Selma July 24-25, **1856**.

1858 The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Dumb was established at **Talladega**, and a school for the blind added by 1867. Dr. Joseph Henry Johnson was the first president.

A noted advocate of education for the blind and deaf was Alabama's **Helen Keller**, (1878-1968), deaf and blind from 19 months. With the help of her first teacher, Miss Sullivan, Helen learned to communicate through words

Helen Keller and teacher

spelled in her hand. At 10, she was taught to speak. Miss Sullivan accompanied her through preparatory school and through Radcliffe College, where Helen completed in four years the same work as had other graduates who could see and hear. The **Tuscumbia** native became a member of the Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, and served on several boards for the blind and deaf. She wrote books on her experiences and on educational possibilities for the deaf and blind, and gave public lectures on their behalf.[2] A special department to teach handicapped children to read braille and use sign language was established at the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind and named the **Helen Keller School of Alabama.**

1861-1865 Public education almost ceased to exist during the War Between the States. Invading Union armies did much irreparable physical damage to schools; for instance, on **April 4, 1865**, fast moving federal troops captured Tuscaloosa and burned **The University of Alabama**, because Northern generals considered the school a "military university" which trained young men for Confederate service. In other areas, schools were used as barracks for soldiers. . . During the Reconstruction Era the system of free schools provided in the new state constitution adopted in 1868 failed due to funding problems. Private funds and subscriptions were not allowed, as they had been prior to 1868. More significant, however, was the misuse of the existing state school funds by state officials in the provisional government.[3]

1868 A committee for schools for blacks in **Mobile** presented its recommendations, and buildings for these schools were authorized.

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[2] *Girl's Stories of Great Women*, Elsie E. Egermeier, The Warner Press, Anderson, Indiana, 1947, p. 23.

[3] *History of Education in Alabama*, Bulletin 1975, No. 7, State Department of Education, pp. 16, 19, 20.

In **1871** Alabama had 3,321 public schools and 3,470 teachers. They received average pay of $42.60 per month for a 66.5-day school term.

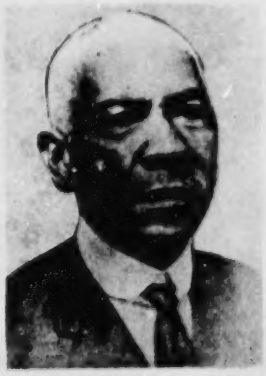
William Burns Paterson, a white man of Scottish ancestry, was a pioneer in black education in Alabama. He started a day school near Greensboro, then moved his independent school into the town in **1871**.

The next year he began his public school career as headmaster at **Tullibody Academy**, which he founded. After six years he moved to Marion where he served as president of **Lincoln Normal University** for the first four years after it became a state school in **1874**.

The Legislature established the **State Normal School** for whites at **Florence** in **1872**, making Alabama the first state in the South to begin permanent professional training for teachers at public expense. Similar schools for blacks were opened at **Marion** in **1874** and at **Huntsville** in **1875**. Normal schools for white teachers began at **Troy (1887)**, **Livingston (1883)**, and **Jacksonville (1882)**, and were geographically located to serve various parts of the state.[4] All evolved into state universities.

Alabama A & M University (formerly Huntsville Normal School) was designated as a land-grant institution in 1891, through provisions of the Morrill Act of 1890.

Councill



Beverly

William H. Councill, a pioneer black educator, came to Alabama during the turbulent years of the War Between the States. He was largely self-educated but studied at a Freedmen's School in Stevenson before taking over as principal of the Colored School of Huntsville, forerunner of the Huntsville Normal School, established in **1875**.

Councill, born of slave parents in Fayetteville, N. C., was chosen as the first president of Huntsville Normal School. It was designated as a land-grant institution in **1891**, through provisions of the Morrill Act of 1890. It became a junior college in 1919, a senior college in 1939, and Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University in 1969.

[4] *History of Education in Alabama*, Bulletin 1975, No. 7, State Department of Education, p. 28.

Booker T. Washington

Booker T. Washington, one of Alabama's most famous leaders in education, became president of **Tuskegee Institute**, a private institution, (formerly Tuskegee Normal Industrial Institute), which was established through a $2,000 state grant in **1881**. He opened the new school July 4 that year in a small unpainted church, with 30 pupils, mostly from nearby farms. He continued to lead its development until his death in 1915.

1882 The state teachers' association was reorganized as the **Alabama Education Association**. An association for blacks, **the Alabama State Teachers' Association**, was organized by **William Burns Paterson**, who served as its first president.

In **1887** Paterson opened the **Colored Peoples University** in Montgomery. Two years later it was re-established as the **State Normal School for Colored Pupils**, when the normal school at Marion was relocated in Montgomery. This institution evolved into **Alabama State University**.

John William Beverly, a prominent black educator in Alabama, was born a slave in 1858. He was one of the first pupils in the Tullibody Academy in Greensboro, which he later served as principal for four years.

In **1886** he became the first black teacher at **Lincoln Normal University** at Marion and moved to Montgomery

as a teacher of English and Latin when the school was relocated in 1887. He was chosen as the school's first black president in 1915 and held the position for five years.

Between **1889** and **1895**, nine district agricultural schools were established for whites, and a branch agricultural station was established for blacks attending Tuskegee Institute and Montgomery Normal School.

Dr. George Washington Carver

Dr. George Washington Carver, widely acclaimed scientist and educator, joined the Tuskegee Institute faculty in **1896**. He became famous for making some 300 products from peanuts, and about 100 products from sweet potatoes.

One of the early leaders in black education, **Ms. Cornelia Bowen**, founded the **Mount Meigs Institute** at Waugh and served as principal there for many years. She also was instrumental in founding the **Alabama Reform School for Juvenile Negro Lawbreakers** in 1907. It was later taken over by the state and operated as the Alabama Industrial School for Negro Children. She served as the first woman president of the Alabama State Teachers' Association.

A. H. Parker, a native of Virginia, organized in **1899** the first public high school for blacks in Birmingham. It was known as Industrial High School but was renamed Parker High School in his honor in 1939.

Parker saw the school grow to an enrollment of some 3,000 students and a faculty of more than 100 members. As late as 1964, Parker High was the largest Negro high school in the United States.

1899 A new law transferred responsibility for certification of teachers from counties to a State Board of Examiners.

In **1899-1900** there were 5,235 teachers in 3,505 public schools, and 185,693 students.

Dr. John W. Abercrombie, state superintendent of education, reported these improvements in education in his annual report for **1899-1900**: "The office now occupies two rooms instead of one. . . .the system of bookkeeping has been simplified and systematized. . .a stenographer and typewriter are badly needed." State revenues for education totaled $1,000,865 that year.

Ms. Washington

One of Alabama's early pioneers in education--**Ms. Georgia Washington**--founded the **People's Village School** at Mt. Meigs in **1893**. It started with four boys and classes met in a rented house. Today it is a modern junior high school with about 1,200 students.

People's Village School

Julia S. Tutwiler

Julia S. Tutwiler (1841-1916) earned the title of "mother of co-education in Alabama" by gaining admission of women to The University of Alabama, with the first two enrolling in the autumn of **1893**. She was a leader of the movement to provide technical training for girls. The **Girls' Industrial School**, now the **University of Montevallo**, was opened in **1895** as a result of her efforts.

She was president of **Livingston Normal College** from **1890** until her retirement in **1910**. In that position she assisted hundreds of girls who could not afford to pay board and other expenses, obtaining loan funds for them, or, if necessary, lending the money herself.

Ms. Tutwiler is also remembered as the author of *Alabama*, our state song.[5]

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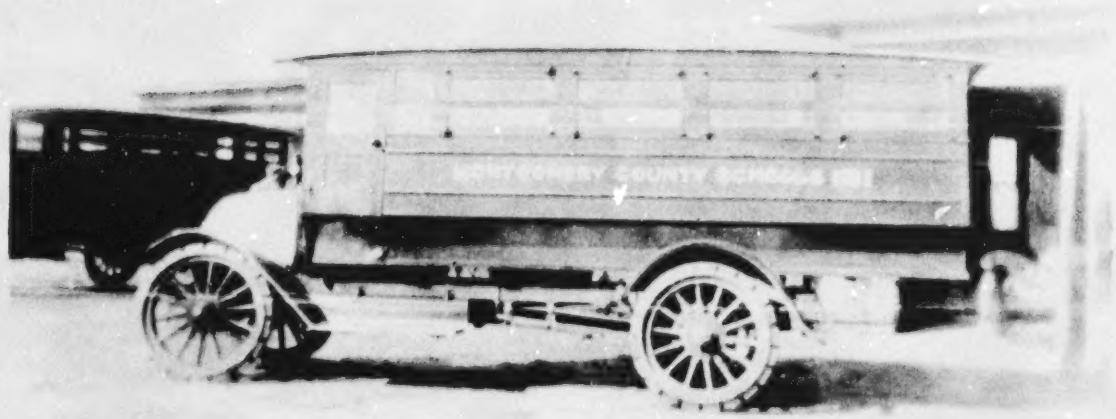
[5] *Julia S. Tutwiler and Social Progress in Alabama*, Anne Gary Pannell and Dorothea E. Wyatt, The University of Alabama Press, 1961.



Alabama School Bus – 1918 Vintage

Citizens' support of public education increased throughout the state, making possible notable improvements and modernization of Alabama's schools during the first quarter of this century.

SCHOOLS OF YESTERDAY--1901-1942

The early 20th century witnessed the "awakening" of Alabama's statewide system of public education. In **1901** the **Textbook Commission** was organized to procure a uniform series of textbooks for use in the public free schools. Spectacular advances were made in secondary education during the first quarter of this century. Elementary schools also made steady progress as the result of grading of schools, development of a course of study for elementary schools, and increased financial support.

A County High School

In **1907** high schools were established in each county except those already having normal or agricultural schools.

1911 Qualifications for teachers' certificates were specified by law.

First School Bus

1912 Public school transportation was instituted when **Ben L. Tew** closed the one-room school in which he was teaching and arranged to transport himself and the children by wagon to join the faculty and student body of the school at **Ward**, in **Sumter County**. This first horse-drawn "school wagon" in Alabama covered a route of six miles one way for two years without missing a day...The use of tax money for school transportation was first approved by the Legislature in **1915**, made necessary by consolidation of schools.[6]

William F. Feagin became state superintendent of education in **1914**. Through his efforts laws were passed to authorize local school taxes, provide better school supervision, a new system of teacher certification, compulsory attendance, a state board of trustees to control the normal schools, and the Alabama Literacy Commission to assist illiterate adults.

1917 The Smith-Hughes Act provided vocational courses in agriculture, home economics, and trade and industrial education for most public high schools.

Schools of this era were funded by legislative appropriation, but most funds for education of blacks came from philanthropic agencies, among them the **Slater Fund**, the **Anna T. Jeanes Foundation**, **John D. Rockefeller**, and the **Julius Rosenwald Fund**. Once the programs initiated by these funds were well established,

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[6] *Administrator's Handbook of School Transportation*, Bulletin 1950 – No. 4, State Board of Education.

however, the state usually assumed responsibility for funding them.

1919 An **Education Study Commission** was authorized to study education needs. Additional studies were authorized in 1932, 1943, 1957 and 1967. A permanent **Alabama Education Study Commission** was established in 1969.

1919 The State Board and the **State Department of Education** were created.

1920 Dr. George Washington Trenholm was named acting president of the State Normal School (now Alabama State University) at Montgomery, and later became president. He presided over the expansion program which saw many new buildings constructed on the campus. In his last year as president, 1924-25, the school had 2,673 students over the full year. A principal for 19 years at Tuscumbia, Dr. Trenholm became the first black to serve on the State Department of Education staff in 1916.

The first civilian rehabilitation program authorized under the **Smith-Bankhead Act**, passed by Congress in **1920**, was operated by Alabama. (Alabama's **Sen. John H. Bankhead** was joint sponsor of the Act.)

1921 Alabama's **first program of rehabilitation** was funded by a $23,000 state appropriation, matched by an equal amount in federal funds.

Baker

One of the outstanding leaders in black education in South Alabama was **Benjamin F. Baker**, who served more than 30 years in the Mobile County school system. He was principal of Whistler Elementary School in 1923, and of the Crichton Community School the next year.

After a year as superintendent of black schools in Gulfport, Miss., in 1926, he returned as principal of the Mobile Training School, one of the first schools in Alabama to be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

He was a principal of the training school at Plateau for 11 years. In 1947 he accepted a position as principal of Central High School, Mobile, which also achieved accreditation under his leadership.

During the **Great Depression** (1929-31), teachers were paid with state warrants which promised payment in the future. Often, to get needed cash, teachers sold these warrants at a great loss. This meant that teachers donated millions of dollars' worth of their services to schools.

Many schools would have closed had it not been for the **New Deal** program of **President Franklin D. Roosevelt**, which poured federal money into the state.

1927 The **Alabama Special Education Trust Fund** was created, with a number of taxes earmarked for the fund.

1927 The first effort was made at the state level to equalize educational opportunity in the counties.

1932 A **Budget Act** was passed requiring proration when funds are insufficient. (Section 41-4-90 of the Alabama Code of 1975)

In **1935** the **Free Textbook Law** was enacted, authorizing state-owned textbooks through the fourth grade. Also passed was the **Minimum Program** school law, guaranteeing a minimum school year of **seven months**.

Several laws affecting teachers' welfare were passed in **1939**, among them the **Teacher Tenure Law**, which was improved in **1953**. A law was passed requiring that teachers be paid in cash and on time. The **Teachers' Retirement System of Alabama** was created by legislative act and officially launched by proclamation of the governor in **1941**.

"Progressive education" came into existence as a result of the **1941** courses of study, which included basic socializing experiences which all children were to have.

With the teacher shortage heightened by many teachers volunteering for active service in World War II, almost half of the teachers employed were unable to meet minimum standards for certificates, resulting in **12,673** emergency certificates being issued in 1942-43.

Tremendous progress has been made in all phases of education during the past 30 years, particularly since 1957 when Russia's Sputnik I thrust America into the Space Age.

SCHOOLS OF TODAY--1943-1979

Following World War II (1941-1945) teachers and teaching supplies were scarce. School construction was severely limited by building materials shortages. The "baby boom" of the war years presented ever increasing numbers of first-graders in already overcrowded classrooms.

1943 The minimum school term was increased to **eight months.**

Original Hillman Hospital
University of Alabama Medical Center

1945 **The University of Alabama School of Medicine** moved from the **Tuscaloosa** campus to **Birmingham**, and offered a four-year program. The University's **School of Dentistry** was created that same year and enrolled its first class in **1948**. The **School of Nursing** moved from **Tuscaloosa** to **Birmingham** in **1967**, and in **1969** the **School of Optometry** opened. The Legislature established the **School of Community and Allied Health Resources** that same year.

The School of Medicine on the Tuscaloosa campus had been created in **1907** when the **Medical College of Alabama** in **Mobile**, dating from **1859**, became a part of that institution. The Mobile school's principal founder was **Dr. Josiah Nott**, its first chairman of surgery.

1945 Vocational high schools were authorized.

1946 The **National School Lunch Act**, the **Veterans' Education Program**, and the establishment of authorized **vocational high schools** in the state were implemented by the State Department of Education.

For the first time the children of Alabama were provided a **nine-month school term** in **1947.** **Transportation facilities** and **textbooks** were improved. **Regional trade schools** were established, with at least one such school scheduled for construction in each of the ensuing four fiscal years.

In **1947-48** there were **3,702** public schools in Alabama with 20,645 teaching positions and an enrollment of 651,480 students, including 435,561 in elementary schools and 215,919 in secondary schools. There were **nine state institutions of higher learning** with 1,851 faculty members and 24,872 students.

Dr. H. Councill Trenholm, a native of **Tuscumbia**, served as president of **Alabama State College**, Montgomery, (now Alabama State University) for 37 years. He headed the college while its collegiate enrollment rose from 40 to 4,800 in the peak years of **1947-48.**

Dr. Trenholm

He served 32 years as volunteer non-salaried executive secretary of the American Teachers Association and editor of the *ATA Bulletin*. He helped build membership in the association to 25,000 by 1961.

When he joined the faculty, the school was known as the State Normal School. He was an instructor and administrative assistant four years before he became acting president in 1925 following the death of his father, **George Washington Trenholm**, who was president of the school. He succeeded his father as president the next year.

1953 Under the leadership of **Gov. Gordon Persons**, Alabama established the nation's **first public education television network**. Nine ETV channels are now operating from these locations: Birmingham, Cheaha Park, Dozier, Mobile (at Spanish Fort), Florence, Louisville, Huntsville, Demopolis, and Montgomery.

Educational Television

1954 The new Course of Study returned to the theory of **basic fundamental education**, turning from progressive education.

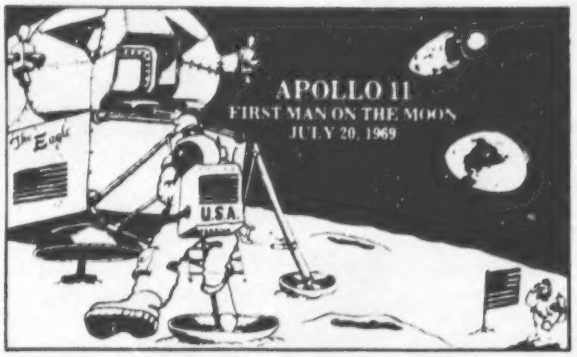
The U. S. Supreme Court's **Brown vs. Board of Education** decision of **1954** struck down the state's policy of "separate but equal" facilities for black and white students.

When federal courts ordered the admission of **Autherine Lucy** to **The University of Alabama** in **1956**, she was the first black to enter an "all white" college. She was expelled, however, after a short and controversial tenure as a student. The next blacks to enter, **Vivian Malone** and **James Hood**, enrolled in 1963, with Ms. Malone becoming the first black graduate of a previously all-white institution in May 1965.

As a result of the launching of Russia's "Sputnik I," the world's first man-made satellite and the ensuing "**space race**," the **National Defense Education Act of 1958** provided federal funds for a broad range of educational programs in the state and nation. Funds for additional programs were provided in **1964**, **1965**, and **1966**. The purpose of the act was to assure trained manpower to equal the Russians in scientific development.[7]

[7] *History of Education in Alabama*, Bulletin 1975, No. 7, State Department of Education, p. 67.

1959 A **State Tenue Commission** was established to hear appeals from local school boards.



First Moon Landing

Alabama takes much credit for the **moon walks** of the **1960's**, with **Huntsville's Marshall Space Flight Center** providing much of the knowledge and technology making moon landings possible. Scientific knowledge gained during the space race overflows into the schoolroom and into everyday life.

1962 marked the retirement of **Dr. J. F. Drake**, fourth president of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College at Normal, and one of Alabama's outstanding black educators. He served the school 35 years as president.

He served as president of the Conference of Presidents of Land-Grant Colleges in America and represented the American Teachers Association at the World Organization of Teaching Professions in Copenhagen in 1952 and in Washington, D. C., in 1959.

Dr. Drake

Dr. Robert Hatch, another longtime leader in education, was recording secretary four years, then executive secretary of the Alabama State Teachers Association for 13 years. He also was executive secretary of the American Teachers Association.

Dr. Hatch was a professor of education at Alabama State College for many years and served as acting president nearly a year in **1962** after the retirement of Dr. Trenholm. He was a member of the State Department of Education staff from 1945 to 1961, first as State Jeanes Supervisor and then as supervisor of instruction for four years.

He also served as president and secretary-treasurer of the National Jeanes Teachers Association.

1963 A statewide network of **junior, technical**, and **community** colleges was launched under the guidance of **Gov. George C. Wallace**. The purpose was to make higher education available to all citizens.

1965 A law was enacted creating the **State Textbook Committee** and establishing regulations relative to the selection and purchase of textbooks. This was the beginning of a program for **free textbooks for grades 1-12.**

1967 A **College of Medicine** was created in 1967 at the **University of South Alabama** in **Mobile**, and admitted its first students in 1973. The USA medical school awarded 56 degrees at its first graduation in 1978. USA also operates a Medical Center Hospital.

A major desegregation case, **Lee vs. Macon**, was initiated when a black child, Anthony T. Lee, challenged Alabama laws which would have had the effect of delaying school integration. In **1967** a three-judge federal court panel, composed of Circuit Judge Richard T. Rives, District Judges Hobart Grooms and Frank M. Johnson, Jr., issued an order requiring affirmative action to desegregate all school systems in Alabama which had not previously been ordered to integrate.

This brought all public school systems in Alabama **under federal court supervision in carrying out the desegregation mandate.**

1969 Amendment No. 284 was ratified in December, making the State Board of Education a constitutional board to be elected by the people and the state superintendent of education to be appointed by the elected board. The newly elected State Board of Education named **Dr. LeRoy Brown**, president of Jefferson State Junior College, Birmingham, as Alabama's first state superintendent under the new law, on **February 16, 1971.**

In **1969** the predominantly white **Alabama Education Association**, a private membership organization, merged with the all-black **Alabama State Teachers Association**, retaining the name of the larger association. The merged association voted to unify its state and local affiliates with the **National Education Association** in **January, 1973.**

In a move to coordinate educational programs and policies of colleges and universities, the **Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE)** was established by the Legislature in 1969. Legislation was approved by the **1979** Legislature to strengthen the Commission and give it authority to review, evaluate, and approve new units of instruction, research and public service in postsecondary institutions.

1971 The Alabama Exceptional Child Act moved toward providing appropriate services and instruction for children who could not benefit from regular classes. Included were the **mentally retarded** and **physically handicapped**, those with **learning disabilities**, as well as the **intellectually gifted.**

Exceptional Children

James A. Smith, principal of Northview High School, Dothan, served as first black president of the Alabama Education Association in **1971-72.** In his parting president's message during the 1972 AEA Convention, he noted that the AEA and ASTA had merged in 1969 without too much difficulty.

"I feel that we as educators have risen above the petty differences of race and ethnic background," he said, "...and are embarking on a period of growth and excellence heretofore unequaled in Alabama history."

1975 Public Law 94-142 was enacted by Congress, requiring states to provide handicapped children with educational services in regular classrooms to the maximum extent appropriate, but did not provide funds to meet the extra cost.

By **1975** as a result of additional court rulings, the classrooms in all state supported schools were desegregated--students as well as faculty and support personnel. All of Alabama's school districts continue under federal court direction to integrate their schools.

President Gerald R. Ford, in June **1975**, nominated **Dr. David Mathews**, president of **The University of Alabama**, to be **Secretary of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare**. Dr. Mathews returned to his duties at the University in February, 1977.

1976 Dr. C. C. Baker, Associate Professor of Educational Administration and Director of Student Teaching at Alabama State University, Montgomery, became the first black assistant state superintendent of education. As assistant superintendent he supervises regulatory services of the State Department of Education.

1977 As a result of complaints that some high school graduates lacked minimum skills to survive in the world of work, a **Committee of 100** was appointed to study the problem and devise a remedy. Working with commercial testing firms, the committee established minimum competencies required of school children at various grade levels and prepared tests to be administered to all school children after a year of pilot testing in selected schools. Results of the tests will indicate instructional areas in need of improvement.

In **1977-78** Alabama had 773,051 students in public schools, with 46,509 of them graduating from high school that year. The total number of teachers was 39,513. In contrast, with an enrollment of 799,667 in 1960-61, there were only 37,597 graduates.

School Activities

School transportation plays a vital part in the operation of public schools. In **1977-78**, a total of 452,483 students were transported 45,583,117 miles by 5,574 buses.

Alabama joined in the nationwide **middle school movement** in the **1970's**. Middle schools, with revised age groupings between elementary and high school, began to replace junior high schools. **Dr. Wayne Teague**, state superintendent of education, named an advisory committee in **1978** to recommend how the middle school concept could best be adapted in our state.

1978 The State Board of Education approved revised and strengthened **teacher certification standards**, thereby upgrading teacher education.

By **1978-79** the state supported kindergarten program, begun in 1973, had grown from one unit in each congressional district to **316** units in city systems and **562** units in county systems.

By **1978-79** funding for the **Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and Crippled Children's Services** amounted to $12.4 million in state and local funds and $31.4 million in federal funds, a total of **$43.8 million**. In **1977-78** the state agency worked with **8,733** individuals needing rehabilitation services and assisted **15,937** crippled children. From an initial state appropriation of $23,000 matched by an equal amount in federal funds in 1921, the program had increased to **$1.1 million** in state funds and an overall budget of **$7 million** by **1965-66**.

From a few thousand dollars in the early years, the state invests $67.5 million annually (as of **1978-79**) in the University of Alabama School of Medicine. It is producing from 150 to 200 highly skilled physicians each year.

After the Legislature mandated a study to plan for more coordination of medical education programs, the University of Alabama School of Medicine, sometimes called the University of Alabama System Medical Education Program (UASMEP), was established in **1972**. The major portion is at the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham and consists of five health schools--dentistry, medicine, nursing, optometry, Community and Allied Health--and the University of Alabama Hospitals. In the summer of 1979 the Medical Center reported 3,261 students enrolled.

The University of Alabama in Huntsville, a part of this system, offers medical studies through its School of Primary Medical Care and its School of Nursing.

The College of Community Health Sciences, University of Alabama, University, Alabama, is also a part of the system.

(The College of Medicine, University of South Alabama, Mobile, established in 1967, is not a part of the UASMEP.)

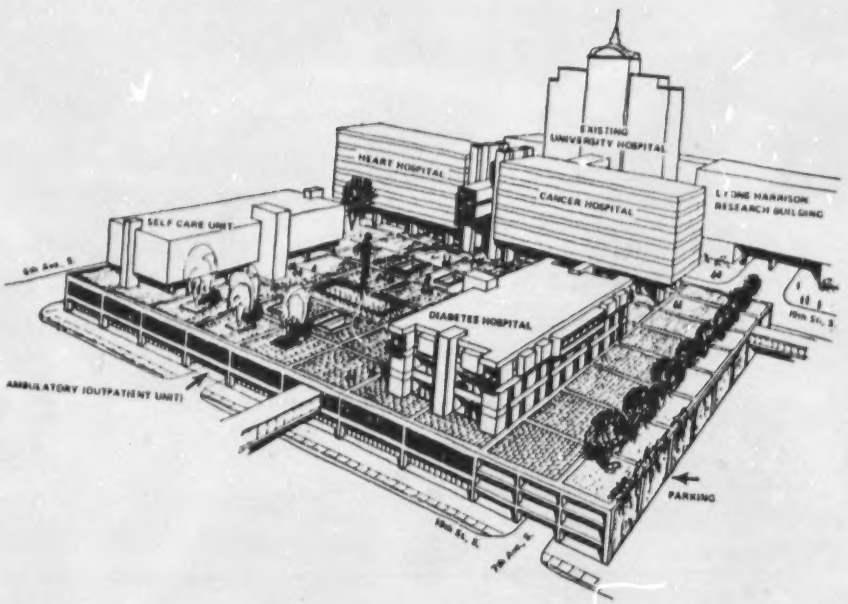
As to health research dollars, the University of Alabama School of Medicine ranked among the top 25 in the United States in 1979. In dollars devoted to cardiovascular research, it ranked second in the United States and probably in the world. Research programs at the Medical Center have achieved national and international recognition.

A referral center for patients from throughout the Southeast and from foreign countries, the University of Alabama Hospitals include the acute-general University Hospital, Spain Rehabilitation Center, and The Diabetes & Research Education Hospital--the first public diabetes hospital in the U. S. Now under construction are specialty hospitals for heart and cancer patients and an ambulatory center which will offer a full spectrum of clinics for outpatient services.

Surgery in UA Hospital

Not only are discoveries of far-reaching biomedical significance being made with some regularity at the Medical Center, but a less spectacular accumulation of important research data is making a major impact in the practice of clinical medicine.

Many millions of dollars are generated by the Medical Center Complex in Birmingham through research grants from the federal government and from a number of private foundations; gifts from business and industry; local government; and fund raising campaigns, such as the one sponsored for the Lurleen Burns Wallace Memorial Hospital, which resulted in $5 million contributed by the people of Alabama. Another $6 million campaign has been launched to finance the Heart Hospital.



Proposed University Hospital

Alabama's first **billion-dollar state education budget** was approved by the State Legislature in a five-day special session in August 1978. It was for the **1978-79** school year, in the amount of **$1.18 billion**, and provided support for:

- 1 upper level college (Athens College)
- 15 senior (four-year) colleges
- 21 community and junior colleges
- 22 technical colleges/institutes
- 99 area vocational centers (of the projected 119)
- 398 high schools* (Grades 10-12 or any combination of trades through 12)
- 135 junior high schools* (Grades 7-9 or any combination of grades through 9)
- 138 middle schools* (Grades 4-8 or any combination of grades 4-8)
- 693 elementary schools* (Grades K-8 or any combinations of grades K-8)

In addition to public schools, there are 17 private or denominational four-year colleges, five private or denominational junior colleges, and 293 private or denominational schools which provide educational facilities with a variety of grade combinations ranging from kindergarten through senior high.

Teachers' salaries in Alabama have increased steadily over the years. In **1978-79** the average salary was **$12,948**, in contrast to the average of **$21.36** a month in **1899-1900** when school terms averaged **65 days**. The average salary in **1960-61** was **$3,905**.

Data from the **1980** census is expected to show that the average Alabamian, 25 years of age or older, will have completed more than **11** years of schooling, compared to **10.7** years in **1969** and **7.1** years in **1940**.

*Accredited and unaccredited.

In **1978-79** the **Adult Basic Education Program**, begun in **1965**, enrolled more than **46,000** functionally illiterate adults in classes of reading, writing, spelling, and mathematics. In addition, through **General Education Development** (GED), more than **13,000** certificates of high school equivalency were issued in **1977-78**.

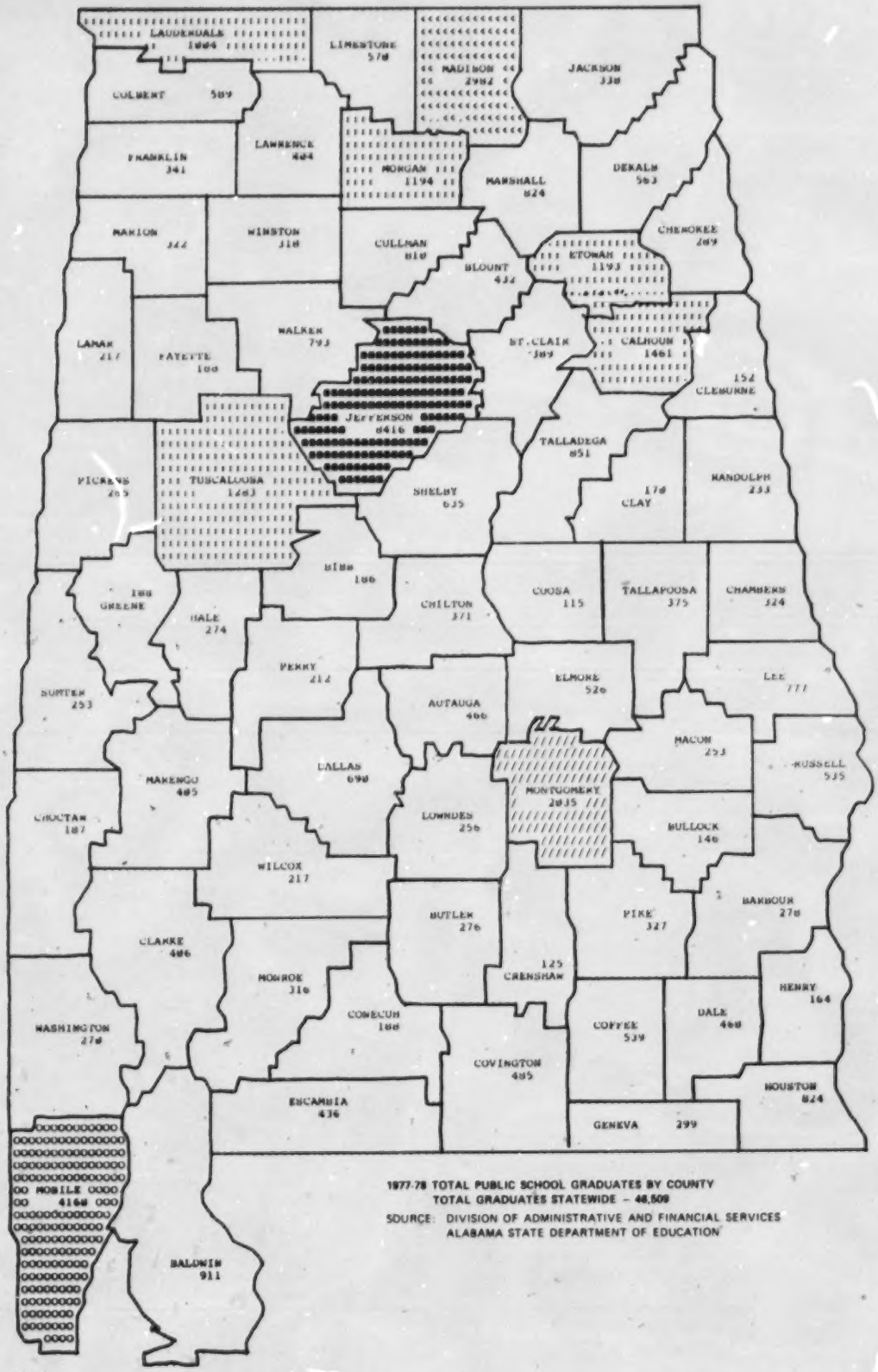
The state operates six special schools: **The Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind**, Talladega, with a Department of Adult Blind and Deaf Training Center; the **Alabama School of Fine Arts**, Birmingham; the **Partlow State School and Hospital**, Tuscaloosa; and the **Alabama Department of Youth Services**, with two campuses in Birmingham and one at Mt. Meigs near Montgomery.

The State Board of Education determines educational policies in Alabama. It is composed of one elected member from each of the eight former congressional districts*. The governor is its presiding officer. Its executive officer, the state superintendent of education, is appointed by the board. The state superintendent administers state board policies and heads the **State Department of Education**.

The State Department of Education, under the leadership of **Dr. Wayne Teague**, state superintendent of education, was reorganized in **1978-79** to include the **Executive Division** and the divisions of **Administrative and Financial Services; Disability Determination** (Birmingham); **Instructional Services; Education Programs and Audit Services; Legal Services; Rehabilitation and Crippled**

(Turn to page 15)

*Following the 1970 census Alabama lost one of its eight members of the U. S. House of Representatives. The state was then divided into seven congressional districts. Members of the State Board of Education are still elected in their original districts.



1977-78 TOTAL PUBLIC SCHOOL GRADUATES BY COUNTY
TOTAL GRADUATES STATEWIDE – 46,509

SOURCE: DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES
ALABAMA STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Dr. Wayne Teague

Children Services; and **Research and Information Services. Postsecondary Education Services** and **Regulatory Services**, which are special divisions of the department, are administered by assistant state superintendents at the direction of the state superintendent of education. Vocational Education was temporarily moved to the Division of Instructional Services, and was later re-established as the **Division of Vocational Education Services.**

The ratio of black and white teachers, students, and administrators varied from one school system to another in the **1978-79** school year. For example, the **U. S. Commission on Civil Rights'** desegregation report issued in February, **1979**, gave this profile of the **Mobile County** school system based on 1977-78 records:

Enrollment--63,800 students--27,860 black and 35,940 white
School faculties--1,274 black (41 percent) and 1,813 white (59 percent)
Principals--22 black and 63 white
Administrative staff--two black and four white

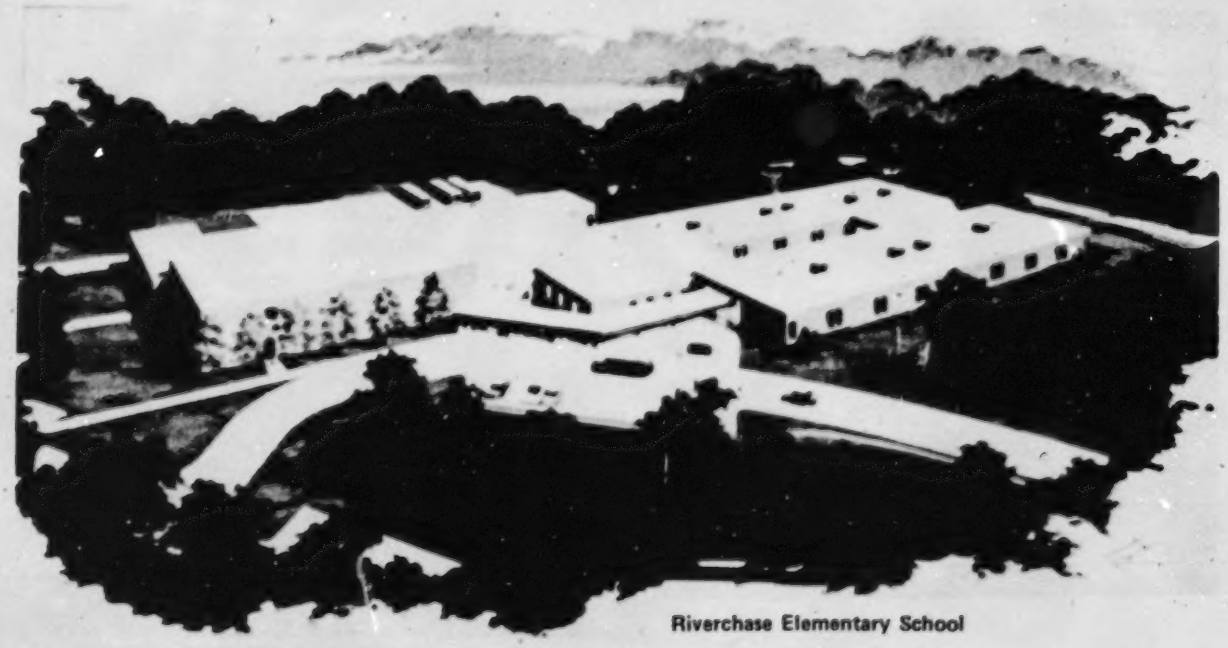
In **1978-79**, a **school lunch program** was available to every child attending public schools in Alabama, with 78 percent of the children in average daily attendance participating. The number of lunches served totaled 96,446,449. In addition, 49 percent of public schools participated in a **breakfast program** with a total of 12,585,433 breakfasts served.

In **1979, 82 percent** of Alabama's public schools (all levels) were accredited, increasing from **55 percent** in **1971.**

1979 In the spring, the California Achievement Test was administered to all public school students, grades one through 12. This was a major undertaking of **Gov. Fob James' "War on Illiteracy,"** which he proposed in his campaign for governor. Although scores were above national averages, a substantial number of students scored below grade level. Analysis by testing experts will help to pinpoint achievement levels of individual children, making it possible to render assistance in the specific basic skill area in which help is needed.

A record budget for education, $1.23 billion, was passed by the Alabama Legislature for the **1979-80** school year.

A MODERN ALABAMA SCHOOL



Riverchase Elementary School

HIGHLIGHTS OF _____ HISTORY
(Your School)

INDEX

IN THE BEGINNING—1799-1900

Abercrombie, Dr. John W. . . . 5
Alabama A & M University . . . 4
Alabama Education Association . . . 4
Alabama Educational Association . . . 3
Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind . . . 3
Alabama State Song . . . 6
Alabama State Teachers Association . . . 4
Alabama State University . . . 4
Auburn University . . . 3
Beverly, John William . . . 5
Bibb, Gov. William Wyatt . . . 2
"Blab" School . . . 2
Bowen, Cornelia . . . 5
Carver, Dr. George Washington . . . 5
Councill, William H. . . . 4
District Agricultural Schools . . . 5
Education Statistics for 1840 . . . 2
Education Statistics for 1850 . . . 3
Father of Public Education . . . 3
First Elected State Superintendent . . . 3
First Medical School . . . 3
First Public School . . . 2
First School . . . 2
First University . . . 2
Graefenberg Medical Institute . . . 3
Keller, Helen . . . 3
Meek, Alexander B. . . . 3
Parker, A. H. . . . 5
Paterson, William Burns . . . 4
Perry, William F. . . . 3
Public Education During the War Between the States and Reconstruction Era . . . 3
Public Schools for Blacks, Mobile . . . 3
Public School Statistics, 1871 . . . 4
Public School Statistics, 1899-1900 . . . 5
Sequoyah . . . 2
State Board of Examiners for Teacher Certification . . . 5
State Normal Schools Established . . . 4
The University of Alabama Established . . . 2
Tutwiler, Julia S. . . . 6
University of Montevallo . . . 6
Washington, Booker T. . . . 4
Washington, Georgia . . . 5

SCHOOLS OF YESTERDAY--1901-1942

Alabama Literacy Commission Established 7
Alabama Special Education Trust Fund Created 8
Baker, Benjamin F. 8
Bankhead, Sen. John H. 8
Black Education – Philanthropic Funding 8
Budget Act Requiring Proration 7
Compulsory Attendance Initiated 7
Course of Study for Elementary Schools 7
Educational Opportunity for Counties Equalized 8
Education Study Commission Created 8
Feagin, William F. 7
First School Bus 7
Grading of Schools 7
Great Depression 8
High School Established in Each County 7
Jeanes, Anna T., Foundation 7
Local School Taxes Authorized 7
Minimum Program Law (7 Months) 8
New Deal Program 8
Progressive Education 8
Rehabilitation Program Begun 8
Rockefeller, John D. 7
Roosevelt, President Franklin D. 8
Rosenwald, Julius, Fund 7
School Supervision Improved 7
Slater Fund 7
Smith-Bankhead Act 8
Smith-Hughes Act 7
State Board of Education Created 8
State Department of Education Created 8
State-owned Textbooks, Grades 1-4 8
State Textbook Commission Organized 7
Teacher Certification Qualifications Specified 7
Teacher Certification Revised 7
Teacher Shortage, Emergency Certificates During World War II 8
Teacher Payment in Cash Law 8
Teacher Tenure Law 8
Teachers Paid with State Warrants 8
Teachers' Retirement System Created 8
Trenholm, Dr. George Washington 8
Trustees for Normal Schools Appointed 7
Vocational Education Established 7

SCHOOLS OF TODAY--1943-1979

Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE) . . . 11
AEA, ASTA Merge . . . 11
AEA, NEA Unite . . . 11
Alabama Exceptional Child Act . . . 11
Alabama State University Statistics, 1947-48 . . . 9
Adult Basic Education Program . . . 13
Average Schooling of Alabamians . . . 13
Back to Basic Education . . . 10
Baker, Dr. C. C. . . . 11
Black/White Ratio in Schools . . . 15
Brown, Dr. LeRoy . . . 11
Brown vs. Board of Education . . . 10
College of Medicine, University of South Alabama . . . 11
Committee of 100 . . . 11
Competency Testing Explored . . . 11
Desegregation of State-Supported Schools . . . 11
Drake, Dr. J. F. . . . 10
Eight-month School Term . . . 9
Ford, President Gerald R. . . . 11
General Education Development (GED) . . . 13
Grooms, District Judge Hobart . . . 11
Hatch, Dr. Robert . . . 10
High School Graduates, 1978-79 . . . 14
Hood, James . . . 10
James, Gov. Fob . . . 15
Johnson, District Judge Frank M., Jr. . . . 11
Lee vs. Macon . . . 11
Lucy, Autherine . . . 10
Mainstreaming . . . 11
Malone, Vivian . . . 10
Marshall Space Flight Center . . . 10
Medical College of Alabama in Mobile, 1859 . . . 9
Medical Education, The University of Alabama, 1978-79 . . . 12
Middle Schools Established . . . 12
Mathews, Dr. David . . . 11
Moon Walks . . . 10
National Defense Education Act . . . 10
National School Lunch Act . . . 9
Nine-month School Term . . . 9
Nott, Dr. Josiah . . . 9
Number of Private Schools . . . 13
Number of Public Schools . . . 13
Persons, Gov. Gordon . . . 10
Postwar "Baby Boom" . . . 9
Public Education Billion-Dollar Budget . . . 13

Public Education Television Network 10
Public Kindergarten Program 12
Public Law 94-142 11
Public Higher Education Statistics, 1947-48 9
Public School Statistics, 1977-78 12
Record Budget for Education 15
Rives, Circuit Judge Richard T. 11
School Breakfast/Lunch Program 15
School Transportation Facilities Improved 9
School Transportation Statistics, 1977-78 12
Smith, James A. 11
Space Race 10
State Board of Education Becomes Elective 11
State Board of Education Function, Composition 13
State Community Colleges Established 11
State Department of Education Reorganization 13
State Junior Colleges Established 11
State Special Schools 13
State Superintendent of Education Becomes Appointive 11
State-owned Textbooks, Grades 1-12 11
State Technical Colleges Established 11
State Tenure Commission Established 10
State Textbook Committee 11
Statewide Testing, 1979 (CAT) 14
Teacher Certification Standards Strengthened 12
Teacher Salary Statistics 13
Teague, Dr. Wayne 12, 15
Textbooks Improved 9
The University of Alabama Desegregated 10
The University of Alabama School of Medicine 9
Trade Schools (Regional) Established 9
Trenholm, George Washington 9
Trenholm, Dr. H. Councill 9
U. S. Commission on Civil Rights 15
Veterans' Education Program 9
Vocational High Schools Authorized, Established 9
Vocational Rehabilitation and Crippled Children Service Statistics, 1977-78 and 1978-79 12
Wallace, Gov. George C. 11
War on Illiteracy 15